



# UNDER GOD?

**The Week of September 27, 2020  
Politics & The Church  
Group Discussion Questions**

[Watch this sermon summary from Pastor David at https://youtu.be/aQH9bNcVfI8](https://youtu.be/aQH9bNcVfI8)

## **Intro Questions**

- What was Pastor David's simple definition of politics? (Politics is the activity of deciding what happens between us.)
  - What examples of organizations can you think of that fit this description (especially ones that you wouldn't typically consider "political")?
- Pastor David made the statement that the church is a political organization. Was this surprising to you? How does that statement make you feel?
  - How does the church fit the definition of a political organization?

## **Be The Church**

- **Read Genesis 12:1-3**

The Lord said to Abram: Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who treat you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

- According to this passage who is in charge of making a great nation?
- What did Israel experience because they rejected God's direction?

- **Read Jeremiah 31:21-24**

“Look, the days are coming”— this is the Lord’s declaration — “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. This one will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant they broke even though I had married them”— the Lord’s declaration. “Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days” — the Lord’s declaration. “I will put My teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people. No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least to the greatest of them”— this is the Lord’s declaration. “For I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sin.

- Jeremiah is prophesying about a new community that God is making a covenant with. Who makes up this new community?
- What were God’s promises to this community?
- If the church truly modeled equality, what issues today could be made better? How is the church doing in this?
- How are we getting more people into this wonderful community?

- **Read 1 Peter 2:9-10**

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- How does having received mercy from God equip us as ambassadors for His kingdom?
- How can we show mercy to our neighbors during difficult times?
- As the church, how do we gain credibility in the world?

- **Read Acts 2:42-27**

And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Then fear came over everyone, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as anyone had a need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude, praising God and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved.

- What are some things that society expect from the State that the Church is called to do in this passage?

- Pastor David said “The church should be the most healthy, high functioning political organization on the planet.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- “But as important as the state is, as necessary as it is, the state can’t change the human heart. Only the Gospel can do that. The state has the sword, but the church has the Gospel.” Share some examples of where you see this in play.
- Pastor David said, “the most important political action of any church is to BE THE CHURCH.”
  - How do we “be the Church?”
  - Pastor David gave some concrete examples (in the summary video). Can you remember them?

## Use Your Voice For Good

- **Read Matthew 5:13-16**

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men. “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

- What is God’s definition of goodness?
- Do you have an area of passion in your life that you are working to bring change?
  - If you’re not working for change yet, what are some ways that you could get involved?

## Use Your Voice For Change

- **Read Daniel 4:27**

Therefore, may my advice seem good to you my king. Separate yourself from your sins by doing what is right, and from your injustices by showing mercy to the needy. Perhaps there will be an extension of your prosperity.”

- How did Daniel boldly use his voice to bring change with an earthly king?

- **Read Acts 24:24-25**

After some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and listened to him on the subject of faith in Christ Jesus. Now as he spoke about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became afraid and replied, “Leave for now, but when I find time I’ll call for you.”

- How did Paul speak candidly to authority?
- What was Felix’s response?

**Watch this clip from Pastor David at  
[https://youtu.be/sQhwmt3\\_9xc](https://youtu.be/sQhwmt3_9xc) and pray along.**

God is calling us to use our voice for good and to bring about change with maximum credibility. When we do, we can influence our government to do good, restrain evil and promote good among its citizens.

And the question I have for you is simply this: Are you a part of this community? Are you a part of the church of Jesus Christ, this embassy of the Kingdom of God? The entrance requirements are the same for everyone. It doesn't matter your history, your race, your language, your wealth, your education. Everyone is welcome.

To join in, you need only admit your sinfulness when compared to a holy and perfect God. You need only accept that Christ has come, lived a perfect life and then offered himself as a sacrifice to pay the penalty of your sin.

This same Jesus wants to live in you through the power of the Spirit of God so that you can be in community with him not only now but forever. He is inviting you to say, Yes, I want to join you, I want to be forgiven and made right with you. I want to be in your family now and forever.

I am asking you to make that decision today. Reach out to us through our website. Go to the fresh start link and learn what it means to be in a relationship with Christ and become a citizen of Christ's Kingdom. Then join in with the local church. Help build it into a healthy, high functioning body that consistently shows the love of Christ and earns the credibility to be heard. Together, we can speak for good and speak for change.

### **Going Deeper**

Check out the "Under God?" section in the church app for more videos and Election Resources.